



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

STRIVE-Boston Employment Service, Inc., MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected STRIVE-Boston Employment Service, Inc. for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. STRIVE's Brownfields Assessment Pilot partner is the City of Chelsea. STRIVE is a non-profit employment training and placement organization with 60 offices across the country. The Pilot will target distressed neighborhoods in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and New York City. Chelsea is a small (population 35,000) harbor community within Boston's inner metropolitan core. The population of Chelsea is approximately 45% percent minority. One-quarter of the population lives in poverty and unemployment is double the state average.

Historically, Chelsea has been home to various heavy industries, much of which are now abandoned or underused because of the potential for environmental contamination. The city is implementing a major land recycling initiative, the Anchor Projects Program, which is currently focusing on redevelopment of the 43-acre Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District. The city's assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities and the economic distress of many residents indicate a need for this Job Training Pilot.

PILOT SNAPSHOT

Date of Announcement:
May 1999

Amount: \$200,000



*STRIVE-
Boston Employment
Service, Inc.,
Massachusetts*

Profile: The Pilot will train 75 participants as environmental technicians. Sixty students will be recruited from distressed neighborhoods in Chelsea, Massachusetts, is a small harbor community within Boston's inner metropolitan core. During the second year of the Pilot, an additional 15 students will be recruited from distressed neighborhoods in New York City.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

STRIVE plans to train 75 students, achieve a 65 percent placement rate, and track students for a minimum of two years after the job training is completed. Sixty of the participants will be trained by STRIVE-Boston, and during the second year of the Pilot, 15 students will be trained by STRIVE-New York. Participants will be recruited from low-income residents of Chelsea and New York City. The Pilot training program will consist of a 12-week environmental technician training program, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The training efforts of STRIVE will be supported by organizations such as the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, the Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership, the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Onsite Environmental Staffing Services, and ETI Environmental Professionals, Inc. STRIVE has established an Environmental Technology Advisory Board, comprised of representatives from potential environmental employers, local businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies, to help guide the Pilot.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents from distressed Chelsea and New York City neighborhoods;
- Conducting environmental technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for at least two years after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.